GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3874
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Shortage of Oncologist
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cancer cases that has come to the cognizance of the Government in the country every year;

(b) whether cancer patients are facing hardship due to the acute shortage of Oncologists and costly treatment and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy to provide consultancy of Oncologists to cancer patients living in far flung areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to make cancer treatment affordable and provide financial assistance to the cancer patients and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): As per Indian Council of Medical Research's Cancer Registry data (2012-2014), the estimated number incidence of cancer cases in the country for the years 2014 to 2016 are given below:

Year	2014	2015	2016
Estimated number of Cancer Cases	1328229	1388397	1451417

(b) to (d): Such data regarding cancer patients is not maintained centrally. However, the cost of treatment of Cancer depends on various factors including, inter alia, the stage of diagnosis, type and site of cancer, type of treatment etc.

While doctors with D. M. (Medical Oncology), M.Ch (Surgical Oncology) and M.D. (Radiation Oncology) treat Cancer patients in higher level tertiary care hospitals, Cancer is also being treated in hospitals by other Doctors such as General Surgeons, Gynecologists, ENT Surgeons etc., depending on the type and site of Cancer. In fact, Cancer is being diagnosed and treated at various levels in the Government health care system.

To increase the number of seats in Super speciality course in Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Anesthesiology and broad speciality course in Radiotherapy, the ratio of number of Post-Graduate (PG) teachers to the number of students to be admitted has been now increased to 1:3 for a Professor subject to a maximum of 6 PG seats per unit per academic year. Further the ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.

(e): The treatment of Cancer in many of State and Central Government institutions is free for BPL patients and subsidized for others. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments to prevent and control cancer and to provide affordable and accessible care. Some of the steps taken by Central Government are as follows:

I. Implementation of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) under NHM for up to district level activities. Further, the guidelines for population level screening of common cancer viz. Cervix, Breast and Oral have been released to the State Governments for implementation.

II. To enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer, the Central Government is implementing Tertiary Care Cancer Centre Scheme to support the setting up of State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. 13

TCCCs and 11 SCIs have been approved till date.

III. Supporting Cancer care under new AIIMS and State Government Medical Colleges being upgraded under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).

IV. Setting up of 2nd campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata and setting up of National Cancer Institute (NCI), Jhajjar under aegis of AIIMS, New Delhi has been approved.

V. The Government is providing financial assistance to patients living below poverty line for life threatening diseases under the schemes such as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF), State Illness Assistance Fund (SIAF) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG).

VI. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets have been opened at 41 Institutions/Hospitals with an objective to make available Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases drugs and implants at discounted prices to the patients. Jan Aushadhi stores are set up by Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide generic drugs at affordable prices.

VII. The list of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which are included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013 also contain drugs used for the treatment of Cancer for which ceiling prices have been fixed.